

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (*koka*) No. 2002-225701 discloses a conventional electric parking brake apparatus of such a type. The disclosed apparatus includes a parking brake, which consists of a brake disk and a [[break]] brake pad for generating a braking force corresponding to a pressure-contact force at the time of pressure contact with the brake disk; and an electric motor for driving the brake pad. Parking brake activation control is performed in such a manner that the motor is operated until current flowing through the motor and increasing with the pressure contact force reaches a predetermined target value, so as to bring the parking brake into an activated state in which the parking brake can stop the vehicle and maintain it in the stopped state, and subsequently, the operation of the motor is stopped.